Professional Standards

CODE OF ETHICS FOR EDUCATORS

Preamble

The National Education Association (NEA) believes that the education profession consists of one education workforce serving the needs of all students and that the term ‘educator' includes education support professionals.

The educator, believing in the worth and dignity of each human being, recognizes the supreme importance of the pursuit of truth, devotion to excellence, and the nurturing of democratic principles. Essential to these goals is the protection of freedom to learn and to teach and the guarantee of equal educational opportunity for all. The educator accepts the responsibility to adhere to the highest ethical standards.

The educator recognizes the magnitude of the responsibility inherent in the teaching process. The desire for the respect and confidence of one's colleagues, of students, of parents/guardians, and of the members of the community provides the incentive to attain and maintain the highest possible degree of ethical conduct. The Code of Ethics for Educators indicates the aspiration of all educators and provides standards by which to judge conduct.

The remedies specified by the NEA and/or its affiliates for the violation of any provision of this Code shall be exclusive, and no such provision shall be enforceable in any form other than the one specifically designated by the NEA or its affiliates.

The following exhibit reproduces the Code of Ethics for Educators adopted by the National Education Association in 1975. The Code was revised in 2020 to use the broader term "educator." This code is used by the California Teachers Association and is distributed to teachers in the CTA Handbook.

The educator strives to help each student realize the student's potential as a worthy and effective member of society. The educator therefore works to stimulate the spirit of inquiry, the acquisition of knowledge and understanding, and the thoughtful formulation of worthy goals.

In fulfillment of the obligation to the student, the educator:

1. Shall not unreasonably restrain the student from independent action in the pursuit of learning
2. Shall not unreasonably deny the student access to varying points of view
3. Shall not deliberately suppress or distort subject matter relevant to the student's progress
4. Shall make reasonable effort to protect the student from conditions harmful to learning or to health and

safety

5. Shall not intentionally expose the student to embarrassment or disparagement
6. Shall not on the basis of race, color, creed, gender, national origin, marital status, political or religious beliefs, family, social, or cultural background, or sexual orientation, unfairly:
    1. Exclude any student from participation in any program
    2. Deny benefits to any student
    3. Grant any advantage to any student
7. Shall not use professional relationships with students for private advantage
8. Shall not disclose information in the course of professional service unless disclosure serves a compelling professional purpose or is required by law

Principle II. Commitment to the Profession

The education profession is vested by the public with a trust and responsibility requiring the highest ideals of professional service.

In the belief that the quality of the services of the education profession directly influences the nation and its citizens, the educator shall exert every effort to raise professional standards, to promote a climate that encourages the exercise of professional judgment, to achieve conditions that attract persons worthy of the trust to careers in education, and to assist in preventing the practice of the profession by unqualified persons.

In fulfillment of the obligation of the profession, the educator:

1. Shall not in any application for a professional position deliberately make a false statement or fail to disclose a material fact related to competency and qualifications
2. Shall not misrepresent the educator's professional qualifications
3. Shall not assist any entry into the profession of a person known to be unqualified in respect to character, education, or other relevant attribute
4. Shall not knowingly make a false statement concerning the qualifications of a candidate for a professional position
5. Shall not assist a noneducator in the unauthorized practice of teaching

6. Shall not disclose information about colleagues obtained in the course of professional service unless disclosure serves a compelling professional purpose or is required by law
7. Shall not knowingly make false or malicious statements about a colleague
8. Shall not accept any gratuity, gift, or favor that might impair or appear to influence professional decisions or action

Source: National Education Association, 2020

State	Description
5 CCR 80300	Committee of credentials; definitions
5 CCR 80303	Reports of change in employment status; alleged misconduct
5 CCR 80331-80338	Rules of conduct for professional educators
Bus. Code 25608	Alcohol on school property; use in connection with instruction
Ed. Code 200-262.4	Prohibition of discrimination
Ed. Code 32100	Professional boundaries between adults and students and the safety of learning environments
Ed. Code 44010	Sex offense; definition
Ed. Code 44011	Controlled substance offense; definition
Ed. Code 44050	Employee code of conduct; interaction with students
Ed. Code 44420-44440	Revocation and suspension of credentials
Ed. Code 44811	Disruption of classwork or extracurricular activities
Ed. Code 44932	Grounds for dismissal of permanent employees
Ed. Code 44939.5	Certificated applicant screening
Ed. Code 48980	Parent/Guardian notifications
Ed. Code 49060-49070	Student records
H&S Code 104559	Tobacco use prohibition
Pen. Code 11164-11174.4	Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act

Pen. Code 270-273.76	Abandonment and neglect of children
Pen. Code 311-312.7	Obscene matter
Federal	Description
20 USC 1232g	Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974
34 CFR 99.1-99.8	Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act